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East Germany

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COUNTRY

REPORT NO.

TOPIC

Military Information from the Letzlinger Heath Area

25X1

17 November to 7 December 1953

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1 13 January 1954  
DATE PREPARED

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

25X1

1. On 27 November 1953, the barracks installations in Hillersleben quartered an estimated 4,500 men. On 19 November, soldiers practiced firing with rifles and submachine guns in the area of the barracks installation at the western exit of the city.

On 17 November, four JS-III tanks and two T-34 tanks left the barracks installation at the eastern exit of the city and proceeded toward the target range for record firing. On 21 and 26 November, officers practiced firing with rifles and submachine guns at the revetments north of the barracks installation. On 23 November, soldiers drilled with four 57-mm AT guns.

2. At about 1:45 p.m. on 20 November, five flatcars carrying five 37-mm AA guns and three boxcars carrying enlisted men arrived from the direction of Haldensleben and were unloaded at the Hillersleben railroad station.

On 27 November, eight empty boxcars were observed passing through the Hillersleben railroad station toward Haldensleben.

3. On 3 November, a train carrying one T-34 chassis and including one boxcar passed through Haldensleben toward Magdeburg from the direction of Hillersleben. At 10 a.m. on 15 November, a train carrying two JS-III tanks and including four boxcars, including one occupied by enlisted men, also passed through Haldensleben toward Magdeburg from the direction of Hillersleben. At about 11 a.m. on 3 December, two officers and 24 men wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets arrived at the Haldensleben railroad station and subsequently left toward the Born forest camp.

4. On 7 December, the Fliegerhorst Kaserne in Gardelegen was occupied below capacity. Sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets guarded the installation.

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25X1



- 3 -

5. On 7 December, the vehicle [redacted] which was guarded by sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets, was occupied to capacity. On 23 November, about 10 men left the barracks installation for the Fliegerhorst Kaserne. [redacted]

25X1

2. [redacted] Comment. The two barracks installations apparently were still occupied as previously in late November. [redacted] The information on weapons in the barracks installation at the eastern end [redacted] to a certain extent confirms the 6th Gds Mecc Regt and the 123rd Uds Hw Tank SP Regt of the 19th Gds Mecc Div are quartered in this installation.

25X1  
25X1

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2. [redacted] Comment. On 3 and 15 November, tanks in need of repair of the 19th Gds Mecc Div were apparently shipped to Magdeburg. On 20 November, guns and soldiers of the 260th (de AAA Regt (US) of the division were possibly unloaded and detained. On 3 December, the guard detail of the division in the Horn square camp was presumably relieved.

25X1

3. [redacted] Comment. Except for the occupation of the Fliegerhorst Kaserne, which presumably retains personnel of the 59th Ptz Rifle Regt of the 207th Mts Rifle Div for guard duty on the zonal border, the two installations are apparently occupied as previously. [redacted] The 89th Infdep Regt Bn of the 199th Mts Rifle Corps, which was not located again after the fall of 1953, may be quartered in the veterans training center.

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